

French Dressmakers Making Strong Effort to Establish Long Skirts

The Quest for Details Today—Gowns Sent Out by the Paris Designers—Will the Women Accept Black? The Revival of Fringe. A Season of Organdy.

BY ANNE RITTENHOUSE.
CLOTHES have subtly changed. It is easy to say that the contour of clothes has not changed. This statement finds a complicated explanation.

Well the contour has not changed. It has seemed as fixed for the last three years as the war of the trenches was between offensive and defensive. The beginning and end of apparel is that dressmakers have not had the courage to insist upon a revolution.

So far, so good. Yet, here is another outstanding fact. The French dressmakers have not abandoned the long skirt. It is full, it is slender and draped, it is transparent. It is opaque. It is built for the afternoon. It is fashioned for the evening. It has not appeared with startling effect in street clothes, in France, the dressmakers who follow the smart set are cutting their street skirts ten inches longer than they were last summer. It is not wise to discard these facts. It is not the part of sagacity to regard them as mere experiences on the surface of fashion. The French have method in their obstinacy. They could hammer a fashion on an anvil with the strength and pertinacity of a Vulcan and the world accepts the finished product. It seems to the reporter of fashion that this obstinacy in the choice of a long skirt for the spring on the part of a few powerful factors in France who shape and determine should be accepted as significant.

The American public rebels against the idea of wearing such skirts as have been produced by these French dressmakers. It does not object to the wearing of them as much as it does the length. It realizes that a gathered skirt reaching to the ankles is apt to accommodate age. There is no doubt, however, that the world has been treated to a mockery of age and has witnessed cruel indignation heaped upon maturity through the medium of no-neckline skirts, high-heeled shoes and painted faces. The passionate desire to appear young is often an insult to nature. It is not sadder, wiser and kinder to attempt spiritual rather than physical youth, and to look dignified in a long skirt rather than grotesque in a short one.

Why not insist upon dividing the span of life into three proper sections and wear clothes befitting each, never overdoing youth or overdoing age?

For whoever searches for it, there is a gracious compromise in clothes, and in the finding of this compromise, and in exploiting it there shines the genius of the well-dressed woman.

The tendency of skirt generalities are better, however, for the season. Women want details today. They could gather up these details and loose buttons between them later on. The outstanding fact to a reporter, as I said before, is the persistence of the long full skirt. Its fulness must be accepted, but there is a belief among all those who deal with clothes that long skirts are destined to be the lengthening of the skirt by some dressmakers there is to be the obstinacy of maintaining the short skirt of other builders. This shows the same disparity in clothes that has existed since 1914. The evening skirt which sweeps the ankle and is drawn upward over the hips or hangs with a flat panel effect is featured in a way that makes one gasp. Modesty is indolent to the indecent in the verdict. One gown has a black silk foundation cut like a genuine chemise, rounded at the neck, with a pointed collar opening that easily displays the knees. To this is annexed a flat ruffle of thin lace. Over this is a long, narrow strip of jet lace and net. As the manikin wears flesh-colored slippers and stockings, there is no attempt whatever to disguise the brevity of the black silk chemise, and yet the skirt is long enough to reach the ankles.

There is another gown, this one by Vionnet. This French designer, who has become a feature of trade, has built a gown of Spanish yellow crepe de chine, citron, which has the green shades of an unripe lemon. The crepe is in points at the shoulders and the skirt runs to points which sweep the feet. All the edges are deeply fringed. It has points which fall together as the wearer stands, swinging apart as she walks, and one sees the stockings turning shapely knees. They glimpse in and out. True, this is oriental coquetry in sharp contrast to the indecent modesty of these frocks there are two gowns by Worth which stabilize the long skirt for evening. He names one of these long-skirted gowns "La Femme a la Rose." Those who have followed the French plays know that its name was suggested by the play of the hour in Paris, "L'Homme a la Rose." It is of black lace, full-skirted, wide over the hips, transparent and flaring over the ankles. The lace bodice reaches to the collarbone, then drops to the décolletage that reaches to the waist at the back. The other gown makes a strong appeal to Americans. It is of a dead black crepe, the kind used for mourning. It is a Roman in its folds and the high severity of its neckline. There are no sleeves. What waist line there is is defined above the hips by drapery. The skirt sweeps on the floor at the back and drifts in between the ankles in front. The drapery is caught at one end with white gardenias.

To one in the watch tower it looks as though the American public were going to repeat its usual action in adopting a French fashion a year after France had discarded it. The head to the hem of the skirt the somberness is not broken except by a string of pearls or white ivory beads. The stockings invariably give color to the costume. They are gray, beige or onion skin. The slippers match or they are of black. The Americans run to gray or beige suede. The French insist upon black patent leather or black velvet. Those who import French clothes have brought over a quantity of these dead black gowns for morning, afternoon and evening. They vary them with gowns of black lace.

A few of the models which are to be constantly repeated, judging from present orders, have simple bodices, ornamental skirts and a string of pearls or a string of beads. These gowns go pointed shawls of the material edged with fringe.



PREMIER MODEL OF BROWN TAFFETA WITH LONG SLEEVES AND BACK OF BODICE OF BROWN EMBROIDERED NET.

are typically Spanish and therefore they have coquetry. The smart woman wears them to any afternoon function, dropping them to show a Greek neckpiece and half uncovered arms. When the gown serves for the evening there are no sleeves. This type of evening frock is considered ultra smart. At the ball given by Mr. and Mrs. McLean the night of President Harding's inauguration, Mrs. McLean wore such a gown of lustrous white chiffon. It made an admirable background for the blue Hope diamond. Mrs. Nicholas Longworth also wore at that ball a gown of equal simplicity, with high décolletage, of dull green and gold brocade.

It is a wise and economic fashion for the six months of American warm weather. A curious touch in the spring fashions which has puzzled the reporter is a revival of fringe. It falls over all frocks like a cascade of water. It is rarely used in straight formation on a skirt, but dashes about in a hectic way over the skirt and bodice. It is upward at each side, leaving an opening that easily displays the knees. To this is annexed a flat ruffle of thin lace. Over this is a long, narrow strip of jet lace and net. As the manikin wears flesh-colored slippers and stockings, there is no attempt whatever to disguise the brevity of the black silk chemise, and yet the skirt is long enough to reach the ankles.

The American looks a bit askance at a generous use of organdy. We know the price of our laundries. We know the price of one of Craigie's heroes said of bridge—"Life had imposed enough problems on him without bridge." The novel way in which the new spring gowns employ organdy is to put it as pockets in a dark cloth skirt. Surely this is an extravagant method of using the fabric. But the dressmakers say it gives little trouble. There is one frock of dark blue tulle, in the skirt of which fulness is obtained by knots of dinks blue organdy covered with a fine design of black soutache. This is repeated at the neck and sleeves.

There is another costume which consists of a redinkette of dark blue cloth trimmed on each side with applications of black tulle. Beneath it is an entire frock of white organdy also covered with the scrolls of taffeta. You must admit that this is a curious gown. Those who are insisting upon figured frocks wonder why it is that the dressmakers have taken up plain fabrics and put their own figures upon them with legitimate labor. Embroidery is a second-hand fashion, but fringe, soutache, scrolls of applied fabric and round paillettes in net, silk or chiffon dominate spring frocks.

Renee uses a kind of leaf, of a material cire on one side, which curls over on itself and is used with the generosity of the leaves of Valambrosa. When Renee gets tired of her paillettes which she uses in colors in black and white, in straight formations, just as she used chenille dots in 1915, she uses bands and rosettes of these tightly curled petals. They have no luster on one side and high luster on the other. It is a wonderful season for the handworker who likes to dabble in

other forms of needlework than embroidery. They should have a national mint to turn out the paillettes for the season. Some extravagant person will take to sewing nickels on her gown.

HOME ECONOMICS.
BY MRS. ELIZABETH KENT.



Bookcases.
In a rented house one hesitates to be at the expense of building in book shelves, to be left in the house when one goes. Sectional book shelves or bookcases, which one can take away, seem more satisfactory. The sectional bookcases have certainly come to stay. No method so good of keeping books safe from damp and dust with such convenient possibilities in wood, style, size and height has yet been devised. As they are furnished in units, that is, single shelves which may be added one to another, as need arises, until a large case is secured, they meet the needs of the expanding library and are altogether neat, convenient and suitable to any purpose. Sectional bookcases should be bought to accord in wood and style with the other furniture in the room or may be chosen especially to match the woodwork.

Many people think that books should not be covered with glass, but should stand on open shelves. It is a matter of personal preference, but certainly valuable books should be protected, and dust very soon renders a good binding dull and shabby.

If one does not like the sectional bookcases one has still a wide range of selection, the chief points to be considered being simplicity of line, suitability of wood and the depth of the shelves. A great many bookcases are absurdly deep and offer a real puzzle to the unfortunate purchaser. She may push the books forward to the edge of the shelf where they can at least present an even front, but are very likely to cause the books to fall forward at the least indiscreet jar from behind or even from the side, or she may push them back to the full depth of the shelf to secure the proper balance of the case, but leave a wide space in front to catch the dust, while the books themselves look rather lost.

(Copyright, 1921.)

Broiled Finnan Haddie.

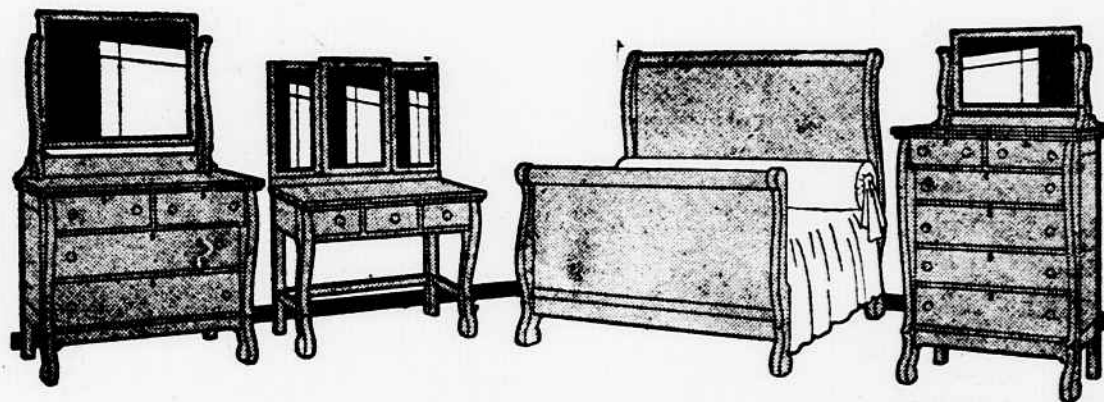
Soak for an hour in cold water, then lay the fish in a sieve and pour boiling water over. Drain and dry on a paper towel. Rub with melted butter, to which a few drops of lemon juice have been added. Broil over a hot fire for about fifteen minutes, turning frequently. Serve hot with a border of green peas.

The train that hangs anywhere excepting where one would expect to find it is in great vogue. Often there are two trains to an elaborate evening frock, one at each side, hanging down over each hip. Sometimes these are formed by tying folds of the fabric of the gown that cross from the shoulders back and front.

Furniture plays a prominent part in

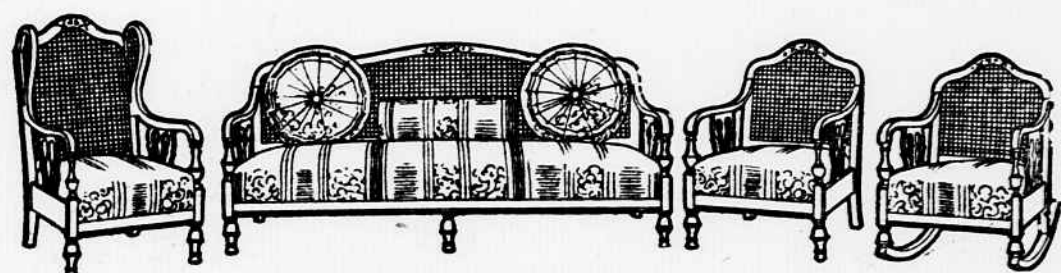
The Hecht Co. Silver Jubilee

These typical values—see today's Post for more items



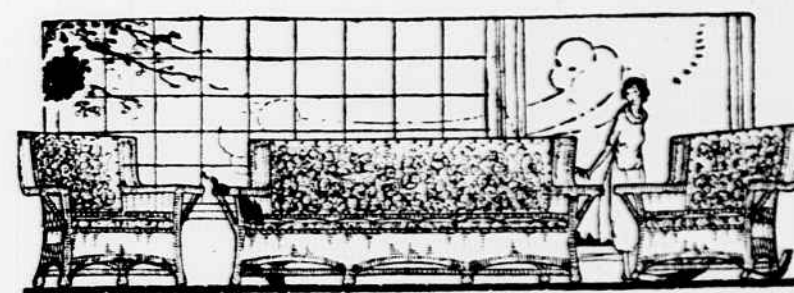
This massive bedroom suite \$139

A carefully finished mahogany suite in most effective design. Included are a large dresser, chiffoier with generous size mirror, triple mirror toilet table and double wood bed. Each may be bought separately; the bed, \$30; the dresser, \$41.50; the chiffoier, \$33.50, and the toilet table, \$30.



This 4-Piece Cane Suite, \$237

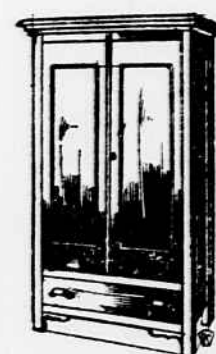
A beautiful period suite consisting of 78-inch davenport, large fireside chair and rocker. All have spring seats upholstered in blue velour.



This upholstered fiber suite, \$165

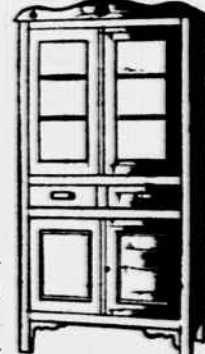
Large 78-inch davenport, chair and rocker with loose spring cushions filled with resilient coil springs. Upholstered in attractive tapestry.

Choice of this wardrobe or kitchen cupboard \$15.85



The wardrobe substantially built of solid oak with two doors.

The cupboard has a two-door glass cabinet top, with drawer and cupboard base.



Choice of either rocker \$16.75



Mahogany finish frames. Both have spring seats upholstered in colorful tapestry.

Good Housekeeping Institute has tested and approved the Bohn Syphon Refrigerator

GOOD Housekeeping approves only such products as meet its high standards and exacting tests.

Bohn Syphon is not the only refrigerator approved by Good Housekeeping, but it is the refrigerator that scored the highest number of points.

In other words, Good Housekeeping practically admits that Bohn Syphon is the best refrigerator made, and we shall be glad to show you why in detail.

This Bohn Syphon refrigerator, \$119

As illustrated, a large three-door, front icing model, complete with the Bohn syphon system of circulation and Flaxinium insulation.

Bohn Sanitor refrigerators, \$55

A splendid porcelain-lined model with three doors and in front icing style.

Sani-cold refrigerators, \$14.75

A top-icing model with 30-pound capacity.

Sani-cold refrigerators, \$24.75

A front-icing model with three doors.

One big sale of

\$17.95 to \$21.50 RUGS

- 9x12 rattania rugs
- 9x12 Cherokee rugs
- 9x12 Domus rugs
- 9x12 wool and fiber rugs
- 8.3x10.6 Cherokee rugs

\$15.90

Fiber and wool-and-fiber rugs. Serviceable, sanitary rugs that will wash and wear and clean as easily as a parquet floor.

9x12 congoileum rugs, \$8.95

Perfect quality Gold Seal Congoileum rugs—in splendid range of patterns. Made with one seam down the center.

9x12 velvet rugs, \$32.50

Seamless rugs in small, all-over and medallion patterns. Absolutely perfect and formerly selling at \$54.

9x12 Axminster rugs, \$36.50

Just 12 rugs left—most of them in 9x12 size and offering pleasing color choice. All perfect and formerly selling from \$54 to \$69.

9x12 all-fiber rugs, \$11.90

All new patterns—and there is still good choice. Perfect rugs that give unlimited service and are attractive as well.

9x12 grass rugs, \$13.75

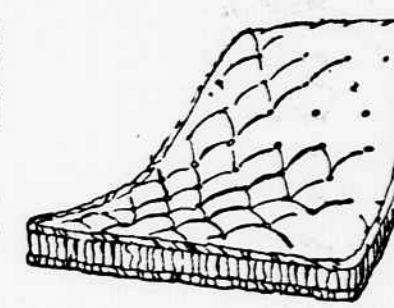
Splendidly made grass rugs, in good-looking carpet patterns that have proved extremely popular. Size 9x12.

(Rugs, fourth floor.)

Tremendous Jubilee Sale Capitol Brand Mattresses

The entire line of these nationally known mattresses is marked at special Jubilee prices.

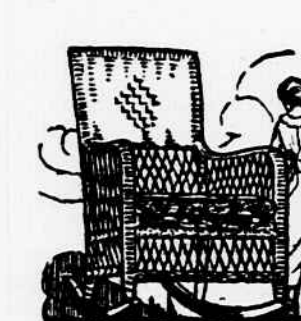
We instance three of the most outstanding values—



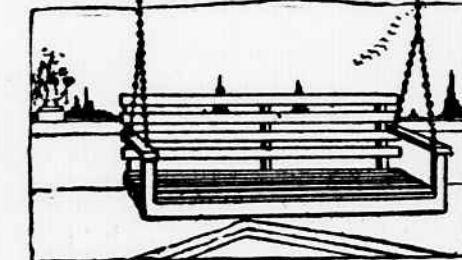
Kapoc silk floss, \$11.95
Layer felt, \$8.45
All-cotton, \$5.85



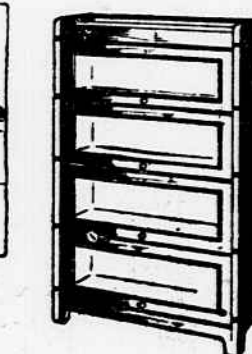
This fiber reed rocker—
Wing-back rocker, finished in dark Baronial brown, with loose spring cushion seat and back upholstered in high-grade tapestry. \$29.75
Chair to match, \$29.75.



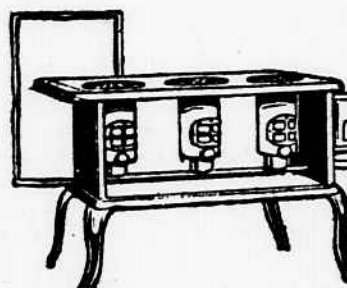
This upholstered rocker—
Of durable fiber reed, with Baronial brown finish. Fitted with loose spring cushion over \$14.75
Chair to match also \$14.75.



This porch swing—
With folding back and complete with all the fixtures for hanging. Finished in fumed oak, \$2.95

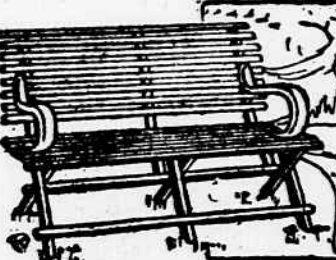


This gunn bookcase—
Four book sections (two 9-inch, two 11-inch), top and base. Finished in golden oak, \$29.75



New Perfection oil stoves

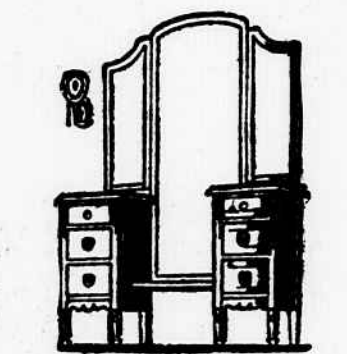
2-burner cook stove, \$18.50.
3-burner cook stove, \$25.
4-burner cook stove, \$31.50.
4-burner cook stove with fireless cooker combined, \$65.



This green lawn bench—
Strongly built, with bent arms and full 4 feet in length, \$2.65



This couch hammock—
With resilient spring and soft top mattress cover. Upholstered with brown denim—\$9.85



Bar Harbor Chair Cushion, \$1.85

Well made with 2½-inch boxing. Choice of several attractive cretonne coverings.

This walnut vanity dresser—
48 inches wide and in period design, with long pier glass and swinging mirrors, \$97.50



This \$8.75 dining room chair—
of quarter-oak, with slippes of brown muleskin. Quite a number. Buy a full set if you wish—\$4.38